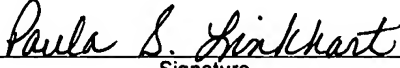


<p align="center"><b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</b></p> <p>NUMBER: <b>EV 691725944 US</b></p> <p>DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>Dec. 19, 2005</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p align="center">               _____              Signature         </p>	
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

**Tianlin WANG**  
**Michael M. LOHUIS**  
**Cheryl J. KOJIMA**  
**Fengxing DU**  
**John C. BYATT**

§  
 § Group Art Unit:  
 §  
 § Examiner:  
 §  
 § Atty. Dkt. No.: **11916.0065.PCUS00**

Serial No.:

Filed:

For: **MARKER ASSISTED BEST LINEAR**  
**UNBIASED PREDICTION (MA-BLUP):**  
**SOFTWARE ADAPTIONS FOR LARGE**  
**BREEDING POPULATIONS IN FARM**  
**ANIMAL SPECIES**

§  
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 § §371 Application of International  
 § Application PCT/US2005/002362, filed  
 § January 27, 2005  
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 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PRIORITY CLAIM**

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the specification prior to examination of this application on the merits.